

September 22, 2004

Mr. David A. Christian  
Senior Vice President - Chief Nuclear Officer  
Virginia Electric and Power Company  
Innsbrook Technical Center  
5000 Dominion Blvd.  
Glen Allen, Virginia 23060-6711

SUBJECT: SURRY POWER STATION, UNIT 2 - RESPONSE TO NRC BULLETIN 2003-02,  
"LEAKAGE FROM REACTOR PRESSURE VESSEL LOWER HEAD  
PENETRATIONS AND REACTOR COOLANT PRESSURE BOUNDARY  
INTEGRITY" (TAC NO. MC0570)

Dear Mr. Christian:

On August 21, 2003, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued NRC Bulletin 2003-02, "Leakage from Reactor Pressure Vessel Lower Head Penetrations and Reactor Coolant Pressure Boundary Integrity," to the industry. This Bulletin informed addressees that current methods of inspecting the reactor pressure vessel (RPV) lower heads may need to be supplemented with bare-metal visual inspections in order to detect reactor coolant pressure boundary leakage and requested these addressees provide the NRC with information related to inspections that have been performed to verify the integrity of the RPV lower head penetrations.

The Bulletin requested that addressees provide a description of the RPV lower head penetration inspection program that would be implemented at their respective plants during the next and subsequent refueling outages. This description was to include the extent of the inspection, the inspection methods to be used, the qualification standards for the inspection methods, the process used to resolve the source of findings of boric acid deposits or corrosion, the inspection documentation to be generated, and the basis for concluding that their plant satisfied applicable regulatory requirements related to the structural and leakage integrity of the RPV lower head penetrations.

By letter dated September 22, 2003, Virginia Electric and Power Company (VEPCO) provided its response to this request. VEPCO indicated it planned to perform a bare-metal visual examination of all 50 RPV lower head penetrations during the Fall 2003 refueling outage at Surry Power Station, Unit 2. In its same response, VEPCO committed to performing a bare-metal visual examination of these 50 penetrations during subsequent refueling outages at Surry, Unit 2, although VEPCO indicated that this inspection schedule may be revised in the future. As such, VEPCO is requested to notify the NRC staff in writing of any changes to this commitment prior to implementation.

The Bulletin also requested that addressees provide a summary of the RPV lower head penetration inspection that was performed at their plants, the extent of the inspection and the methods used, a description of the as-found condition of the lower head, any findings of

relevant indications of through-wall leakage, and a summary of the disposition of any findings of boric acid deposits and any corrective actions taken as a result of indications found.

By letter dated January 30, 2004, VEPCO provided a summary of its inspection results at Surry, Unit 2. VEPCO reported it had performed a 360-degree bare-metal visual examination of the 50 RPV lower head penetrations with no evidence of penetration leakage observed.

The NRC staff has completed its review of VEPCO's responses to NRC Bulletin 2003-02. Accordingly, TAC No. MC0570 is closed for Surry, Unit 2

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

Stephen Monarque, Project Manager, Section 1  
Project Directorate II  
Division of Licensing Project Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-281

cc: See next page

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